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Filching Secrets in Bonn

The police raid on *Spiegel* in 1962 and the raid on *Quick* magazine 10 years later may not be strictly comparable. Adenauer ordered the *Spiegel* raid, while the Social Democrat-Liberal government is swearing with every appearance of sincerity that it knew nothing about the *Quick* affair. The trouble is that they look the same. Descending on the magazine's offices in Bonn and Munich, and on the headquarters of the Heinrich Bauer Verlag in Hamburg, the police went grunting and riffling through the shelves. They were looking for evidence of the theft of state papers, and of bribes passed to civil servants. They seem to have found little more than the gruesome mass of misleading, tattered and misfiled bits of paper which clog the arteries of all newspaper offices.

The *Quick* journalists, allowed to go on working (whereas the *Spiegel* staff was carted off to jail), added skilfully to the confusion by stamping 'secret' on bundles of old expense claims and even pinching one more state document: the official grounds for the issue of a search warrant, which was twitched out of an unattended prosecutor's briefcase and photocopied. The police retreated

with only a few dubious scraps of paydirt: a copy of Professor Schiller's private resignation letter as Minister of Economics and Finance, whose publication set off last week's raids, some bills for Easter presents to secretaries in various cabinet offices, and a note allegedly authorising the Bonn correspondent of *Quick* to bribe up to the sum of 2,000 marks.

Did the government really not know that this was going to happen? Nobody denies it louder than Connie Ahlers, the government spokesman, who was the *Spiegel* journalist illegally arrested in Spain in 1962 and jailed on suspicion of high treason. Even the public prosecutor's office in Bonn has manfully confessed that it was going it alone: Dr Winkelmann of Bonn and his legal superior Dr Drügh of Cologne, knowing the cabinet's desperation about the leakage of state documents to the right-wing press, thought they would use their own initiative and do the state some service.

It may be that God, once again, has failed to protect the Social Democrats from their friends. Or there may be a little more to it. The chairman of the magazine publishers'

